

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-37, and 39-42 are pending. Claims 5, 13, and 38 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, and 28 are currently amended. Claims 40-42 have been added

Claim Objections

The Patent Office submitted that claims 5, 7, 13, 15, 18, 23, 29, 30, 31-33, and 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 11, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Choate et al. (US 5,364,914).

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 20-22, 24, 26, 36, 37, and 39 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ha et al. (US 6,180,200 B1).

Claims 11, 14, 16, 17, 19-21, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-303052.

Claims 11, 14, 21, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Money et al. (US 5,225,486).

Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizutani et al (EP 0 774 476 A1).

Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, and 34 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chandrasekaran et al. (US 5,405,731).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 by inserting the contents of allowable claim 5. Applicants amended independent claim 8 by claiming that the thioether containing compound comprises thioether diepoxide. Applicants have amended independent claim 11 by inserting the contents of allowable claim 13. Applicants amended independent claim 21 by claiming that the thioether containing compound comprises thioether diepoxide. Applicants have amended independent claim 28 by inserting the contents of allowable claim 38.

Accordingly, the above rejections of the claims under 35 USC § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

§ 102/103 Rejections

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani et al. (EP 0 774 476 A1).

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ha et al. (US 6,180,200 B1).

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-303052.

Claim 27 is now dependent upon an allowable claim and is thus, also allowable. Accordingly, the above rejection of claim 27 should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 12, 13, 16, 17, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Money et al. (US 5,225,486).

Claims 12 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-303052.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 12, 16, 17, and 22 are now dependent upon claims that have been indicated as allowable. Accordingly, the above rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 40, 41, and 42 have also been indicated as allowable. Claim 40 combines claims 28 and 31; claim 41 combines claims 28 and 32; and claim 42 combines claims 28 and 33.

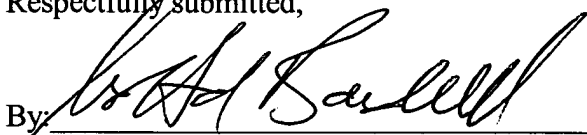
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and request formal notice thereof. Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number

below if Examiner believes that such a call would facilitate prosecution and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

25 November, 2003
Date

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